RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1950

BY

M. I. SILVERTON, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

F. J. PARSONS, LTD., BEXHILL-ON-SEA

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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1950)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. H. T. FINCH

(Col. W. E. HUME-SPRY, D.S.O., M.B.E., resigned from the chair, 17.4.50.)

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. C. MCCRAE

COUN. W. C. BANISTER
COUN. E. BLUFF
COUN. HON. E. D. COURTHOPE
COUN. G. MIGHALL
COUN. SIR ALAN MOORE, BART., M.B., D.P.H.
COUN. LT.-COL. J. E. H. SAWYER, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.
COUN. H. G. SEYMOUR
COUN. C. R. STAVERT
COUN. T. P. TEW, J.P.
COUN. MRS. M. WEST
COUN. MRS. E. WOODGATE

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. Silverton, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. Francis, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

W. T. Dunford, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
K. G. Bewick, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
J. W. Chanell, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (until 31.3.50)
D. W. Copperwheat, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (until 30.4.50)
R. E. Briggs, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (from 15.5.50)
G. J. Allen, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (from 1.7.50)

Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk : Miss M. E. Portnell

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination Clerk : Miss M. H. Hearnshaw*

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:
Miss E. G. Dorey
Miss M. L. Sunnyside (until 23.3.50)
Miss W. R. Burt (from 10.4.50)
Mr. I. W. Mason

Rat Catchers : Mr. J. Dixon (until 11.9.50)
Mr. R. J. French (from 1.5.50)
Mr. R. Elliott (from 20.10.50)

*County Staff employed locally.

To the Chairman and Councillors of Battle Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950, this being my second report and the seventeenth since the inception of this District.

The health of the District continues to compare favourably with the rest of the country.

Although the incidence of poliomyelitis was very high in England and Wales, it will be noted that three cases only occurred in this District.

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria has been vigorously pursued, and once more I am happy to note the complete absence of any cases having occurred in Battle Rural District. In this connection I would like to place on record the debt owed by the parents of this District to Lt.-Col. J. E. H. Sawyer, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., a member of this Council and Public Health Committee, who gave his unstinting services without fee during the war years in order to give the necessary protective inoculations against diphtheria to 4,070 children. He was therefore instrumental in saving many young lives and incidentally avoiding the chronic invalidism so often associated with the survivors.

The great hopes envisaged in my last report with regard to water and sewerage are fast becoming practical propositions. Main water has arrived at Westfield and a new sewer is in process of completion for Icklesham. This is but the beginning of extensive water and sewerage schemes designed to promote the health and amenities of this district in the foreseeable future.

Lack of housing presents a great problem, although reasonable progress continues to be made in this direction. The arrival of main water and sewerage will now allow the building of very urgently-needed houses in other parishes, thus alleviating much discomfort and promoting the health of the people concerned.

I would like to thank Mr. Dunford and Mr. Bewick (Sanitary Inspectors) for their unfailing efforts to conserve and further the health of this community, and to welcome two new Sanitary Inspectors who have already proved themselves to be worthy members of the team so ably lead by Mr. Francis (Senior Sanitary Inspector).

The Chief Clerk (Miss Portnell) and the office staff have been most efficient in carrying out their duties, their loyalty and interest in the administration of the Public Health Department is appreciated.

The Clerk and other Chief Officers have given me every assistance and I am obliged to them for their kindly co-operation.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council, in particular the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for their consideration and support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. I. SILVERTON,

Medical Officer of Health

The Watch Oak,
Battle, Sussex.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

	1948	1949	1950
Area of District in acres (estimated)	117,059	117,059	117,147
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year)	29,890	30,130	29,910
Rateable value	£201,796	£205,340	£210,309
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	£726	£826	£852
Number of rateable premises at 1st April	10,766	11,177	11,193

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

Live Births:	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	199	194	393
Illegitimate	9	9	18
	208	203	411
Stillbirths:			
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	5	3	8

Live birth rate per 1,000 of home population	13.74
Corrected birth rate	15.81
Live birth rate per 1,000 of home population (England and Wales)	15.8
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still)	19.09
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still) (England and Wales)	0.37

The abnormal constitution of the population of this district will account for the lowered birth rate as compared with England and Wales. However, the Corrected Birth Rate irons out this abnormality thus making it possible to compare the two figures on a basis of similar populations.

DEATH RATES FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES

	England and Wales	Battle R.D.
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	—
Whooping cough	0.01	—
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.23
Acute poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis	0.46	—
Influenza	0.10	0.06

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	1	5
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	2
Infective and parasitic diseases	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasms, all sites	33	36	69
Diabetes	1	2	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	40	64
Coronary disease, angina	21	21	42
Hypertension with heart disease	5	9	14
Other heart diseases	52	62	114
Other circulatory diseases	6	3	9
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	11	2	13
Bronchitis	6	1	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	2	4
Gastritis,, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	6	11
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
Congenital malformations	4	1	5
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	17	18	35
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	7	2	9
Suicide	4	1	5
	213	215	428

Deaths and Death Rates

DEATHS:	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
1948	178	199	377
1949	220	214	434
1950	213	215	428

Death rate for Battle Rural District per 1,000 of resident population ... 14.27

Corrected death rate for Battle Rural District ... 10.27

Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of civilian population ... 11.6

It is well known that this District is particularly favoured by those persons retiring from active life and is thus heavily weighted for age as compared with England and Wales as a whole, and so we get an apparently increased death rate. The Registrar General is aware of this and has given us a method of overcoming this bias by introducing a "comparability factor" of 0.73 for this District, thus giving a Corrected Death Rate of 10.27, which compares with 11.6 for England and Wales.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR:	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births:

Battle Rural District	31.6
England and Wales	29.8

Death rate for diarrhoea (infants under 1 year) per 1,000 live births:

Battle Rural District	nil
England and Wales	1.9

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Battle Rural District	2.38
England and Wales	0.86

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS

	1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pulmonary: Additions to Register	9	10	14	12	9	11	13	12	12	12	18	17
Total on Register at 31st Dec.	52	70	60	79	64	82	54	71	44	46	52	55
Non-pulmonary: Additions to Register	3	2	9	4	4	3	3	6	3	3	1	5
Total on Register at 31st Dec.	30	31	38	33	41	34	25	28	18	15	15	17

There would appear to be a considerably increased prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis. It will be observed, however, that transfers of established cases from other areas would account in some measure for this apparent increase.

	Pulmonary.	*Non-pulmonary.*
Death returns of cases not previously notified	—	–
Transfers from other areas	18	–
Cases restored to Register	—	–
New cases (primary notifications)	17	6

Tabulated lists (in age groups) of New Cases notified in this District and all Deaths during the current year are appended :

Age	New Cases (Primary Notifications)				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2— 5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
15—25	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—60	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
60 and over ..	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Total	9	8	1	5	4	1	1	1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

	Measles	Whooping cough	Scarlet fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Meningococcal infection	Food Poisoning	Totals
Under 1 year	1	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	14
1 year	2	14	1	—	—	1	—	—	18
2 years	6	25	2	—	—	—	—	—	33
3 ,,	8	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	26
4 ,,	4	14	2	—	—	—	—	—	20
5—10 years	32	71	26	3	—	2	—	—	134
10—15 ,,	14	4	2	—	—	—	1	1	22
15—20 ,,	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	4
20—35 ,,	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	7
35—45 ,,	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
45—65 ,,	—	1	—	7	4	—	—	—	12
Over 65 ,,	—	—	—	8	3	—	—	—	11
Totals	69	162	35	23	8	3	3	1	304

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Meningococcal Infect.	Food Poisoning
Ashburnham ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Battle	24	19	7	2	—	—	—	—
Beckley	1	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bodiam	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brede	—	2	2	1	1	1	—	—
Brightling ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broomhill	2	7	2	1	—	—	—	—
Burwash	9	9	1	3	—	2	—	1
Catsfield	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst ..	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
East Guldeford ..	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
Etchingham ..	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
Ewhurst	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fairlight	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Guestling	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
Icklesham ..	21	4	4	2	—	—	—	—
Iden	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
Mountfield ..	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northiam	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ore	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Peasmarsh ..	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Penhurst	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pett	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Playden	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Foreign ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Salehurst	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sedlescombe ..	—	3	—	2	2	—	1	—
St. Thomas the Apostle, Winchelsea ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticehurst	—	4	2	7	1	—	1	—
Udimore	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
Westfield	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Whatlington ..	—	6	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	69	162	35	23	8	3	3	1

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1945-50, 1st JANUARY —31st DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Diphtheria (*a*)	1	2	1	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis (*b*)	1	0	4	0	1	3
Meningococcal infection	2	3	0	1	0	3
Measles (*c*)	649	81	150	221	422	69
Scarlet fever (*e*)	18	22	12	13	32	35
Whooping cough (*d*)	51	35	140	108	42	162
Acute pneumonia	15	20	4	8	23	23
Erysipelas	4	3	3	6	6	8
Puerperal pyrexia	5	3	2	2	1	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric group (*f*)	0	1	0	0	0	1

Diphtheria (a)

For the past three years this District has been free from diphtheria.

There is no doubt that immunisation is responsible for this satisfactory result. What other single medical procedure can point to such a saving of child life as exemplified by these figures ? :

	England and Wales.	
Year.	*Deaths.*	*Cases.*
*1941	2,641	50,797
1942	1,827	41,404
1943	1,371	34,662
1944	934	23,152
1945	722	18,571
1946	472	11,967
1947	244	5,592
1948	156	3,560
1949	85	1,898
†1950	49	980

*Commencement of immunisation campaign.
†Provisional figures.

In addition, consideration should be given to the amount of residual chronic invalidism thus prevented as well as the tremendous economies effected by non-usage of hospital bed accommodation, staff, etc., on the scale necessary prior to the introduction of this safe and easily administered life and health saving service.

Acute Poliomyelitis (b)

The epidemic years for this disease were 1947, 1949 and 1950. We had three cases in this District in 1950.

One case recovered completely ; the other two cases are still under treatment and may suffer some residual disability. All cases were immediately investigated and the relevant preventive measures taken.

There was no possible connection with the initiation of disease in these cases and diphtheria immunisation.

Measles (c)

It will be noted that 1950 proved to be a comparatively mild year for the incidence of this infection. There were no admissions to the Isolation Hospital and no fatalities.

Whooping Cough (d)

The comparatively high incidence of this distressing condition is indicative of the need for perfecting a protective vaccine. The Medical Research Council is actively employed in pursuing this ideal and the results so far are considered to be encouraging.

Scarlet Fever (e)

Where the occupations of close contacts, e.g. cowmen and food-handlers, were such as to make it possible for them to be vectors of the disease, the co-operation of their employers was sought and in all cases they agreed to give them other duties not immediately related to milking or food-handling.

Enteric Group (f)

One case, probably due to the ingestion of contaminated food. The infection occurred prior to the patient's entry into this District. He made a complete recovery with no evidence of spread to other persons.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN FOOD POISONING

Food poisoning outbreaks in 1950

Total number of outbreaks	Nil
Number of cases	One
Number of deaths	Nil

Clean Food

The safeguarding of the public health against the dangers of food poisoning by the ingestion of contaminated foodstuffs is a duty which is pursued with every vigilance by the staff of this Department. Catering establishments are regularly inspected and the opportunity is taken in each case to establish a good relationship with the proprietor concerned in order that any preconceived notions of mere interference should be effectively dispelled and that we should be welcomed as advisers ready and willing to help to produce a safe product, thus ensuring that the caterer's own reputation will be fully maintained. Personal hygiene and care in food storage are particularly stressed, pamphlets on up-to-date methods of fly control are distributed with verbal explanatory amplification of the practical details.

This Council has adopted the Clean Food Byelaws of the Minister of Food and they came into operation on 15th May, 1950. The main features are those concerned with securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption.

It is interesting to note the keen and conscientious attitude of the local authorities in implementing their duties in this connection when it is considered that by 31st December, 1950, 1,076 Local Authorities had already confirmed the Byelaws and a further 167 were in process of confirmation thus leaving only 201 Authorities apparently satisfied with the status quo.

This Department has welcomed the adoption of these Byelaws as a first step in the fight for clean and safe food. It is however, anticipated that further legislation to strengthen and clarify the law on this subject will ultimately be found to be necessary.

Milk Production and Producers

The following is a comparative estimate of the percentage of different types of milk produced in this District:—

1949		1950	
T.T. Milk	20%	T.T. Milk	29.3%
Accredited	10%	Accredited	5.4%
Undesignated	70%	Undesignated ..	65.3%

The mortality and invalidism resulting from bovine tuberculosis in the Rural Areas as against that obtaining in London and the Great Towns is significantly increased.

The potent reason for this difference is that milk sold in London and the Great Towns is either pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested which would have the effect of eliminating the Tubercle Bacillus, whereas Rural communities accept undesignated raw milk which too often harbours this organism.

In addition it is likely that there is a measure of subnormal health in rural communities due to the drinking of raw milk which may be infected by the Brucella Abortus bacillus (main cause of abortion in cattle). An average of 20/30% of dairy herds are thought to be infected and although the cattle may have been immunised against this condition they may still excrete this organism in the milk without themselves showing any sign of disease.

Human infection is called Undulant Fever, the symptoms are variable, ranging from occasional malaise with a slight rise of temperature to a disease of indefinite duration characterised by a series of feverish attacks lasting for one or more weeks followed by a period of normal temperature of uncertain duration, the whole sequence then recurring. Mortality is low. Diagnosis is difficult on clinical grounds and recourse must be made to the Laboratory for confirmation. Pasteurisation is sufficient to kill the organism and render the milk safe.

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Brighton has decided that all samples of milk sent for biological examinations for Tubercle Bacilli will also be investigated for Brucella Abortus at the same time. It is thus hoped to obtain some indication of the problem confronting us on this score.

ARRIVAL OF MAIN WATER IN WESTFIELD EXEMPLIFYING THE NECESSITY FOR REVIEW OF SECTION 138 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

The arrival of main water in the village of Westfield during the year was a welcome event. When surveyed in November it was found that thirty out of fifty-one properties had either connected or were anxious to connect. There was some delay in connection owing to the sudden and increased demand for plumbers.

With regard to the remaining twenty-one properties it was found that many wished to connect but were unable to effect this desirable measure on account of the cost. The owner-occupier living on a pension or small savings was particularly unfortunate in this respect.

It should be recorded here that the limit of £20 incorporated in Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is so out of date as to render this Section virtually ineffective. Nowadays a house must be particularly fortunately sited to be able to connect to a new main for £20. This arbitrary limit has had the effect of sterilising the Section in question, thus perpetuating a menace to public health and incidentally a loss of revenue to the Water Undertakings who have provided this necessary service at great expense.

In my opinion the figure should be amended to at least £50. In addition the Council should be able to make a loan to such owners who should connect but are unable to do so on account of economic stringency. The amount so laid out to be recouped over a period of years.

Further details of the present position with regard to water supply and schemes in being are given in Section II.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The facilities available at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, have been used extensively during the whole of the year.

This has included the routine sampling of milks. In addition, samples of raw milk have been submitted for Biological Testing by guinea pig inoculation during the investigation of all cases of tuberculosis likely to have been caused by the drinking of infected milk.

Bacteriological testing of private water supplies has been greatly facilitated, particularly in view of the fact that this service can now be rendered free of charge.

Numbers of water samples sent for Bacteriological Testing:—

1950 .. .. 117 1949 36

In addition, the Director (Doctor J. E. Jameson) has always made himself available for discussion with regard to all samples submitted. This service and personal contact has been most useful and much appreciated.

WATER SUPPLIES (GENERAL)

Many wells were sampled in order to confirm otherwise well-founded suspicions that they were in effect polluted, thus accounting for the preponderance of unsatisfactory reports. (Please see statistical table on page 23.)

Shallow wells are generally known to be unreliable because of likely pollution by surface water, and most wells in this District are of this type.

There were no cases of sewage pollution.

Action taken in respect of polluted wells

The site and gathering ground is surveyed for possible sources of contamination. The well itself is brought up to Byelaw standard which includes proper coverage, new paving of surrounds and steining of the interior when indicated, followed by chlorination of the existing supply and further sampling in due course.

Care being taken to build up a composite picture of samples over a period following rainfall and after drought in order to obtain a true reading with regard to the particular supply in question.

Where a satisfactory result cannot be obtained, underground rainwater tanks of sufficient capacity are advised, a considerable number of houses in this District have to utilise this method of supply.

Plumbo-Solvency

A few wells in the district are found to yield a plumbo-solvent water. Whenever this is encountered the water services are checked and instruetions given for all lead piping to be replaeed by eopper or galvanised pipe.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SERVICE

Number of children who received injections in 1950

Primary course :	*Treated at clinics.*	*By private doctors.*	*Total.*
Under 5 years of age ..	163	187	350
From 5—14 years	75	4	79
Total			429
Reinforcing dose	502	55	557

Total number of children under 15 *years of age resident in the Rural District who had been immunised up to* 31*st December,* 1950 :

Under 5 years of age	1,508
5—14 years (inclusive)	3,503
	5,011

Comparative figures for the past three years :

	1948	1949	1950
Number immunised under 5 years	1,189	1,387	1,508
Child population (under 5 years)	2,273	2,342	2,315
Percentage of child population (under 5) ..	52.30%	59.22%	65.14%
Number immunised 5—14 (inelusive) ..	3,186	3,493	3,503
Child population (5—14 years)	3,780	3,957	4,184
Pereentage of child population (5—14 years)	84.28%	88.27%	83.72%

It is vitally important that the campaign for the immunisation of all children should be prosecuted with the utmost vigour, as any relaxation may allow this dread disease to claim its vietims once again. Parents may in some cases be inclined to ignore exhortations to have their ehildren proteeted in view of the present deereased incidence. Such an attitude must be strenuously combated, as it is by virtue of their co-operation in having their children protected that this satisfaetory state of affairs has arisen. It must be stressed that this life-saving measure is only fully effective when the majority of the child population is proteeted.

Comparative Diphtheria Immunisation percentages for Schools.

School	No. on Register	No. Immunised	Percentage
Ashburnham C.P.	50	49	98.00
Battle and Langton V.P.	298	263	88.25
Beckley V.P.	58	55	94.82
Bodiam V.P.	59	53	89.83
Brede C.P.	71	67	94.36
Burwash V.P.	130	122	93.84
St. Philip's, Burwash Weald	53	49	92.45
Catsfield V.P.	78	73	93.58
Crowhurst V.P.	48	47	97.91
Dallington V.P.	38	35	92.10
Etchingham V.P.	33	31	93.93
Ewhurst V.P.	21	21	100.00
Fairlight V.P.	24	24	100.00
Guestling V.P.	46	46	100.00
Hurst Green V.P.	89	76	85.39
Icklesham V.P.	39	35	89.74
Mountfield and Whatlington V.P.	127	117	92.12
Netherfield V.P.	60	52	86.66
Northiam V.P.	107	100	93.45
Peasmarsh V.P.	77	74	96.10
Pett V.P.	33	26	78.78
Playden V.P.	48	45	93.75
Salehurst V.P.	159	147	92.45
Sedlescombe V.P.	92	81	88.04
Staplecross V.P.	36	34	94.44
Stonegate V.P.	41	41	100.00
Ticehurst V.P.	159	149	93.71
Udimore C.P.	33	32	96.96
Westfield C.P.	129	117	90.69
Winchelsea V.P.	52	50	96.15
	2,228	2,111	92.26
Attending private schools or schools outside the District	1,896	1,392	73.41

VACCINATION

The following persons were vaccinated in 1950 :—

	Under 1 year	1—4 *years*	5—14 *years*	15 *or over*	*Total*
Primary vaccination	253	35	27	16	331
Re-vaccination	1	5	20	135	161

Comparison with previous year.

	1949	1950
Primary vaccinations	206	331
Re-vaccinations	77	161

Number of babies born in 1950	411
Number of babies under 1 year vaccinated in 1950 ..	254
Percentage vaccinated	61.80%
Percentage vaccinated in 1949	25.46 %

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Name and address of Centre	*Sessions in month*
BATTLE: Church Hall	First Wednesday in month.
BECKLEY: Parish Hall	First Tuesday in month.
BODIAM: Parish Room	Second Thursday in month.
BREDE and UDIMORE:	
The Hall, Broad Oak	Second Wednesday in month.
BURWASH: Congregational Hall ..	Second and fourth Thursdays in month.
ETCHINGHAM: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month.
FLIMWELL: Village Hall	Fourth Tuesday in month.
HURST GREEN: Village Hall ..	Second Tuesday in month.
IDEN and PLAYDEN:	
Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh ..	First Friday in month.
MOUNTFIELD (Weighing Centre only):	
Village Hall	Third Wednesday in month.
NORTHIAM:	
Women's Institute Hall ..	Third Tuesday in month
ROBERTSBRIDGE:	
The Institute, Station Road ..	First and Third Tuesdays in month.
SEDLESCOMBE: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month.
TICEHURST: Institute Hall ..	First Wednesday in month.
WESTFIELD: Church Hall ..	Third Tuesday in month.
WINCHELSEA: The New Hall ..	Second Friday in month.

INDUSTRY

The numbers employed in the main varied industries located in this District are given in the table below. The working conditions were generally good and the employers have been most co-operative.

The hop gardens sustained the usual influx and in the Bodiam area alone 2,700 men and women and 1,200 children arrived and were suitably housed. This Department continued to take a great interest in their welfare, both prior to and during their stay in the district. They appeared to be in good health and spirit, presenting no major problems despite the excessive rain experienced during the hop-picking period.

The camps were again visited by a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health who expressed satisfaction at the improvements effected in comparison with the previous year.

Numbers employed at 31st December, 1950 :

	Male.	*Female.*
Bakery	22	13
Beach works	44	—
Building trade	529	6
Concrete works	89	7
Engineering works	96	11
Fencing Co.	19	2
Flour mills	33	17
Gypsum mines	600	17
Hop gardens (permanent staff—Guinness's) ..	120	4
Laundries	18	63
Sawmill	44	1
Tannery	18	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

Action under this Section must of necessity be slow, as implementation involves the liberty of the subject.

The procedure, briefly, is as follows :

On being informed that " a person is living in insanitary conditions by reason of age, infirmity or physical incapacity and is unable to devote to him/herself proper care and attention and is not receiving any proper care and attention from other persons," the Medical Officer of Health visits. If satisfied, he issues a certificate to the Clerk of the Council stating that this person comes within the meaning of this Section of the Act and should be removed to a definite place suitable to his or her condition, the authority concerned having already agreed to accept the said person. The consent of the Public Health Committee to this course of action is obtained and the Clerk arranges for the case to be heard by the Justices of the Peace (Petty Sessions).

A Notice is then served on the person concerned giving the relevant details as follows :

(*a*) Date of hearing, which must be at least seven days hence ;
(*b*) Arranged place for subsequent removal ;

in order that he/she may be fully aware of the facts and able to be represented or be present at the Petty Sessions.

One case did occur where the preliminaries of serving a Notice, etc., were instituted, but by dint of frequent visiting and persuasion, this person decided to accept the necessary hospitalisation which was offered.

It will be observed that the seven day's notice can be used to advantage in attempting to persuade the person concerned to accept the proferred help voluntarily. In addition, it enables the person or relative to make such other arrangements for his/her welfare as may be deemed suitable under the circumstances. However, in other cases it may only prove to be an irksome time lag, during which period the general deterioration may increase markedly.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

It is again my pleasant duty to pay a tribute to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who have provided a most efficient service well in keeping with their high traditions.

HOUSING

I wish to record my thanks to the Housing Committee for their consideration in rehousing those families who were living in conditions inimical to their well-being and were therefore the subjects of particular and special reference to them. It will be noted that the Housing Committee and the Public Health Committee are now two separate bodies.

Mr. Harvey (Housing Manager) has invariably given every consideration to those families sponsored by me who, for medical and social reasons, were in my opinion in urgent need of rehousing. He has been most helpful. The firm liaison thus established should ensure that those in most need will receive the necessary assistance.

It is evident that the local authorities are in process of becoming the largest property owners and as such they must inevitably incur some social and moral obligations to their tenants.

In order to appreciate this great change the comparable figures of council houses in this district for 1939 and years 1945 to 1950 are given below :

1939	433
1945	433
1946	437
1947	540
1948	698
1949	746
1950	831

The population living in these houses at present must be in the region of 3,600. When dealing with such a mass of humanity it is inevitable that some, albeit very few, will be lacking in the ability to manage their households according to approved present-day standards. In order to help these few to re-orientate themselves, it was decided to form a Problem Family Committee as a sub-committee of the Housing Committee.

In the past it had been a very natural policy to tend to disregard the claims of unsuitable potential tenants on account of their mode of living and attitude to life generally. These would-be tenants were usually living in substandard houses completely lacking in modern amenities, damp and insanitary, and quite often harassed by the claims of a young growing family. They found themselves increasingly unable to cope with their commitments and the attendant filth, squalor and general apparent hopelessness of their situations tended to increase their apathy which eventually became an almost impenetrable defensive armour against any intrusion into their lives however well intentioned.

The function of the Problem Families Sub-Committee will be to attempt to assist those families already in occupation who by force of circumstances and lack of experience are unable to adapt themselves to their present living conditions and those other potential tenants who must perforce be considered for rehousing according to their needs despite their apparent unsuitability. This process of rehabilitation will necessitate the exploration of every possible avenue of help both Voluntary and National, always having regard to the overall need for tact and delicacy in the approach. Much will have to be done, but I have great faith that this new venture will bear fruit thus resulting in the increased well-being and happiness of the families concerned.

Representation under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses represented .. 18. Number demolished .. 1

Recommendations for rehousing of the tenants concerned were immediately sent to the Housing Committee via the Housing Manager.

Where it would appear possible that the dwelling might at some future date be made fit for human habitation a " Destructive Undertaking " was accepted by the Council. This ensured that once the existing tenants were suitably rehoused the dwelling would not be available for reletting and would thus cease to become a vehicle for priority rehousing of another family. When empty the owner could not relet and would most likely consider it financially advantageous to repair to the satisfaction of the Council, thus making available an extra house with modern amenities.

In other cases, in particular " tied " cottages, when the owner would not respond to notices requesting fundamental repairs, it was found that the ensuing neglect very soon rendered the cottage " incapable of being rendered fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense " within the meaning of the Act. Representation in these cases appeared to be the spur for the owner to put up a reasonable proposal for repair, thus obviating the necessity for pursuing the case to its logical conclusion, i.e. destructive undertaking or demolition. This instrument is particularly useful in cases of involved ownership where the owners cannot or will not get together to make a joint proposal, the possibility of losing the property usually arouses them to concerted action.

The most difficult cases are those where the controlled rents are so low that owners almost welcome demolition, but these Orders are never made if the property is worthy of preservation.

Many tenants are unwilling to exchange a cottage at, say, 5s. per week, even though condemned, for a new Council house at 30s., so perpetuating slum type of unhealthy living. Where young children are involved the Council may decide that notice to quit is the only remedy thus forcing the issue for the tenant's ultimate benefit.

Standards have perforce been somewhat relaxed but a vigilant supervision of all properties in the District eliminates those considered to be immediately inimical to the health of its occupants.

DETAILS OF ACTION UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

During the year eighteen properties were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Of this number eleven were old beach huts which had been let as dwellings.

The result of action taken under Section 11 is shown below in tabular form:—

Property	Action taken	Position at end of 1950
Little Hemingfold Lodge, Battle.	— —	Owner to appear before the Public Health Committee in January, 1951.
Lodge, Valebrook, Stonestile Lane, Ore.	—	Ditto
Box Cottage, Brede.	—	Owner appeared and promised undertaking to repair.
The Warrens, Camber.	Demolition Order made.	Still occupied.
1 Stars Hill Cottages, Robertsbridge.	Undertaking not to relet.	Vacant.
1—11 Beach Dwellings, Camber.	Demolition Order made.	One still occupied. Not demolished.
The Bungalow Johnson's Field, Camber.	—	Owner demolished voluntarily.
Vue-de-Grisnez, Winchelsea Beach.	Undertaking to repair accepted.	House made fit.
1 & 2 Cherry Tree Cotts., Sedlescombe (represented 1949).	Demolition Orders made.	Still occupied.

SECTION II.

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS DURING 1950

Drains and Sanitary Accommodation	566
Water supply	525
Milk and Dairies	49
Building Inspections, including Building Licences	992
Hop-pickers' Dwellings	96
Infectious Diseases	115
Salvage and Public Cleansing Service	23
Food shops	66
Housing and Public Health Acts	513
Requisitioning	158
Moveable Dwellings	390
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	171
Nuisances	114
Factories and Workshops	10
Schools	33
Miscellaneous	418

NOTICES SERVED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of Notices outstanding at the end of 1949	67
Number of Informal Notices served during 1950	233
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1950	225
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at end of 1950	85
Number of Statutory Notices oustanding at end of 1949	7
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1950	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1950	3
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at end of 1950	5

ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

Dwelling-houses represented under Section 11	18
Demolition Orders made	14
Undertakings to repair	1
Undertakings not to let	—
Houses demolished in compliance with orders	—
Houses demolished voluntarily	1

WATER SAMPLES

The following water samples were taken from new or suspected sources during the year ended 31st December, 1950:

Parish	Wells		Springs	
	Satisfactory	Polluted	Satisfactory	Polluted
Ashburnham ..	2	—	—	—
Battle	—	—	3	2
Beckley	4	2	1	1
Bodiam	—	—	—	1
Brede	1	3	—	4
Brightling	—	1	—	—
Broomhill	—	2	—	—
Burwash	—	2	2	2
Catsfield	1	1	—	—
Crowhurst	—	—	—	—
Dallington	4	3	1	1
Etchingham	—	1	—	2
Ewhurst	3	4	—	1
Fairlight	3	1	1	—
Guestling	2	—	—	—
Icklesham	—	1	—	—
Iden	—	13	—	—
Mountfield	2	2	—	—
Northiam	—	2	—	—
Ore	—	—	1	—
Peasmarsh	3	—	2	—
Pett	—	1	—	—
Playden	—	—	—	—
Robertsbridge	—	—	—	2
Rye Foreign	—	—	1	—
Salehurst	—	1	—	—
Sedlescombe	3	5	—	—
Ticehurst	1	—	—	—
Udimore	2	—	2	3
Westfield	1	10	—	5
Whatlington	1	—	—	—
	33	55	14	24

DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER

Parish	Houses directly connected to main	Premises supplied by meter
Battle	1,223	135
Bodiam	116	—
Burwash	523	—
Catsfield	162	—
Crowhurst	160	39
Etchingham	211	—
Guestling	12	—
Hurst Green*	245	—
Icklesham (Winchelsea)	218	17
Icklesham (Rye Harbour)	111	17
Iden	2	1
Mountfield	7	—
Northiam	351	14
Ore	60	—
Playden	42	4
Rye Foreign	19	6
Salehurst	448	—
Ticehurst	711	—
Westfield	185	—
Whatlington	4	—

*Hurst Green is postal address — properties would be either in parishes of Etchingham or Salehurst.

The above information has been supplied by the respective Water Undertakings.

Twenty-two houses were found to be served with standpipes, fourteen of these being in Battle Parish and eight in Winchelsea.

WATER SUPPLY

There are within the District five Statutory Undertakings:

Undertaking	*Parishes supplied*
Battle Rural District Council	Battle, Crowhurst, Playden, part Icklesham (Winchelsea and Rye Harbour).
Hastings Corporation	Part Westfield and part Ore.
Heathfield and District Water Co.	Ticehurst, Burwash, Etchingham, Salehurst and Bodiam.
Cranbrook and District Water Co.	Northiam.
Bexhill Corporation	Catsfield.

The water supply from Battle and Winchelsea is chlorinated and sampled monthly by the Water Engineer. All results were satisfactory.

The Staff of the Works Engineer's Department were submitted for Blood Testing to the Bacteriologist of the Pathological Department of the Royal East Sussex Hospital. No factors were discovered which would indicate either a carrier state or present disease likely to contaminate and render unsafe the public water supply.

The summer was poor from the point of view of holidaymakers but gave great joy and security to the Water Undertakings, thus bringing no repetition of the difficulties experienced in the previous dry summer of 1949.

No samples were taken by this Authority of water supplied by Statutory Undertakers outside the area.

The two water companies at Cranbrook and Heathfield submitted four and ten reports respectively on samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

Other Piped Supplies

Toot Rock, Pett Level

This small privately-owned supply serves 54 houses in the Pett Level area only. The water is from a shallow well and is of poor quality in the raw state. It is however filtered and chlorinated and two samples taken for bacteriological examination showed satisfactory results.

Fairlight Cove Estate Water Company

This water company supplies 78 properties and also supplies water in bulk to the Pett Water Company and the Warren Estate. The company submitted fourteen reports during the year on samples of water examined bacteriologically. All the samples were satisfactory.

Firehills Estate Water Company

This company restricts its water supply to its own houses.

A few householders at the extreme limits of the supply complained of shortage. The company operates a system of rationing during the summer months by supplying water to each of nine sectors in turn so that individual houses have their storage tanks filled once a day.

Warren Estate

This estate still depends on the Fairlight Cove Estate Water Company for a supply and as that company is often short of water for its own consumers, the Warren Estate is sometimes without water for days. It is likely that this Estate will eventually be taken into the Hastings Corporation's Statutory Area.

Pett Water Company

This is a small company which merely distributes water from the Fairlight Cove Estate Company when available.

The company serves fifteen houses in the Chick Hill area of Pett and the inadequacy of the supply has led to many complaints.

The Fairlight Cove Estate Water Company have intimated that they would not oppose proposals for incorporating their area in that of the Hastings Corporation's Statutory Water Undertaking. Accordingly a notice of Requisition was served on Hastings Corporation, with their tacit approval, during October.

ACTION UNDER THE WATER ACT, 1945

Notices of Requisition

Notices of Requisition were served during the year on certain Statutory Undertakings as follows:—

January .. On the Heathfield and District Water Company to provide a supply for the village of Bodiam.

February .. On Hastings Corporation in respect of—
(*a*). The area between the western boundary of the Parish of Pett and Elms Farm.
(*b*) The southern part of Watermill Lane, Guestling.
(*c*) Guestling Thorn to Three Oaks, Guestling.

May .. On Hastings Corporation in respect of part of the parish of Icklesham.

October .. On Hastings Corporation in respect of the area inadequately supplied by the Pett Water Company.

The notices of requisitions were served after consultation with the Undertakers and there has been general agreement and co-operation throughout.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND REHOUSING

Notices to secure repairs were served under the Public Health Act, 1936. It will be observed from the statistical pages of this report that 233 houses were repaired during the year as the result of informal action taken by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The cost of repairs in relation to the rents received is still the most difficult problem to be solved and there is no sign that any Government is willing to risk the unpopularity attached to legislation permitting an increase in rents. Such an increase, conditional upon the prior execution of all necessary repairs would appear to be a reasonable solution.

At present an overwhelming proportion of houses needing repair can technically only be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

But for much patient and tactful negotiation on the part of the Sanitary Inspectors the number of properties "represented" would have been greatly increased.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1949

Three applications for improvement grants were received during the year. In one case the application was refused as the Council was not satisfied with the specification of works proposed. A second was refused as it was felt that the expense was one which ought to be borne by the owner-occupier and a third was forwarded to the Ministry of Health with a recommendation of approval. This latter application was, however, subsequently withdrawn.

I feel that the present procedure requiring the submission of applications to the Ministry of Health is cumbersome and slow and could be abandoned with advantage to all concerned.

If a local authority is competent to make a Demolition Order it is competent to decide whether an Improvement Grant should be made, without help from a Government department.

The grants are not a great help in dealing with very bad properties let at low controlled rents, as even with their assistance the cost of repair is often still prohibitive.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Owing to the resignation of two inspectors and the consequent loss of 106 man-days in the interval between their leaving and replacement, some routine duties had to be neglected.

As a result only 45 inspections of dairy premises were made during the year.

There are now only ten retail dairies in the District (other than producer-retailiers, who are now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture) and of these, seven are used only as distributing centres for milk bottled outside the District.

There is a tendency for small retailers to cease bottling and become distributors of bottled pasteurised milk from large well-constructed dairies.

In view of the unhygienic conditions which often prevailed in these small dairies in the past, this change is welcomed and should contribute to the health of the community, particularly the child population.

A large proportion of the milk sold in this District is pasteurised and bottled under the supervision of neighbouring authorities who carry out their own sampling. It is anticipated that more samples in the course of delivery will be taken next year.

During 1950 two samples were taken for biological examination following cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, but with negative results.

ICE CREAM

During the year 16 additional premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, bringing the total to 95.

All ice cream sold in the District is manufactured outside it ; 38 registered premises sell wrapped ice cream exclusively. This mode of distribution is encouraged, as loose ice cream is more easily liable to be contaminated from extraneous sources.

There were no cases of illness during the year attributable to ice cream.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All animals to be slaughtered for sale for human consumption are sent to the central slaughterhouse in Hastings and meat inspection is thus limited to visits to butchers' shops. These visits have very often been made at the request of the butcher who has found some diseased condition in cutting up the meat.

An account of food found unfit for human consumption is given below :

80 lb. beef
49½ lb. bacon
72 pkts. suet
24 pkts. soup powder
4 cases butter
10 pkts. cream cheese
1 tin beef steak
1 tin steak and kidney pudding
2 tins meat loaf
1 tin soup
4 tins fish
2 tins fish paste
9 tins condensed milk
6 tins coffee
12 tins plums
5 tins peas
3 tins beans
1 tin jelly
2 tins fruit juice
1 tin grapes
1 tin jam

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

New Sewerage Schemes

This year has seen great preparations for extensive sewerage schemes in many parishes. In March the Public Health Committee agreed to recommend 15 schemes to be carried out by the end of 1954. They were to serve the parishes of Icklesham, Playden, Peasmarsh. Guestling Green, Northiam, Ticehurst, Fairlight, Three Oaks, Guestling, Camber, Burwash, Winchelsea Beach, Burwash Weald, Beckley and Winchelsea Town and would ultimately cost £486,600.

Schemes for Icklesham, Burwash Weald, Peasmarsh and Playden were actually approved by the Minister of Health, and the Council's Consulting Engineers also carried out surveys and prepared schemes for Ticehurst, Burwash Village and Northiam.

The Works Engineer prepared schemes for Three Oaks, Guestling, and Guestling Green.

Work on the first part of the Icklesham scheme was well under way by the end of the year, over 1,400 ft. of sewer having been laid.

Works to Existing Sewers

Ewhurst Lane, Northiam

The Council were obliged to relay part of the old sewer, owing to damage and obstruction by tree roots.

Robertsbridge Sewage Disposal Works

The serious fractures occurring in the effluent channels and foundations of the filter beds at the Robertsbridge Works, following subsidence, were examined by the Council's Consulting Engineers. On receipt of their report the Council agreed to carry out the necessary repairs, including sheet piling to prevent further subsidence, at a cost of £2,000. It was hoped to commence the work early in 1951.

Cesspool Emptying

This is carried out by a private firm from Maidstone who hold a " B " Transport Licence for the Rural District.

All applications or enquiries received are passed to this firm. Towards the end of the year there were signs that the number of applications for their services were getting beyond their capacity and there were one or two complaints of vehicles discharging sewage in unsuitable places.

These were investigated and the company concerned informed of the undesirability of this procedure. However, the service given has been generally satisfactory.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Caravans continue to flow into the district every summer and their numbers increase. Unfortunately, the greatest number go to the least suitable parts of the coastal areas and, having arrived, remain until the Council move them on. Few seem to travel from place to place.

This problem takes up the major part of the time of one Sanitary Inspector during the whole of the summer months, including weekends, and there is every reason to believe that the problem will grow more difficult.

The time lag between detection and prosecution is such that the owner of a field can let it to campers at a handsome profit for three months and be content to pay any fines he may incur.

The Council took proceedings against the owner of sites in 23 cases.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Ten inspections were made of factories during the year.

One Notice outstanding from 1949 was complied with. No new Notices were served during the year.

There are no Outworkers under Section 110 (1) (c) in this District.

RODENT CONTROL

Early in the year the Council decided that, in order to carry out its duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, it would be necessary to employ a second rat-catcher. This appointment was made in April and he commenced work on 1st May, 1950.

At their meeting in October the Public Health Committee resolved to provide a free service for domestic premises. The benefits of this decision were enormous. For the first time it was possible to deal promptly with an infestation involving a group of houses without having first to serve formal notices on difficult owners, to the detriment of those willing to pay.

All the Council's refuse tips, sewers and sewage works were regularly inspected and treated.

Where food shops were infested the Sanitary Inspectors paid visits to ensure that reasonable care was taken to protect food; in many cases it is found that only half-hearted efforts are made to protect vulnerable produce from rats at night, and constant re-education by individual explanation of the hazards involved is the only method likely to overcome the inherent apathy of those concerned.

BUILDING LICENSING

Whilst this work no longer took up a large amount of their time, the Sanitary Inspectors continued to do all the inspections involved in administering the regulations controlling civil building.

The quota system of restricting the total cash value of licences issued to a certain figure per month is very unsatisfactory e.g. one application for repairs to a pair of neglected cottages could absorb one quarter of the whole amount allowed for that particular month.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE

Refuse Collection

The very large area to be covered—117,147 acres—makes refuse collection difficult and relatively costly. We have three 10 cu. yd. and two 7 cu. yd. vehicles and collections are made at approximately three-weekly intervals, except in the built-up area of Battle where a weekly collection is made.

A new vehicle had to be purchased to replace a very old tiller-steered vehicle which had served us well for 14 years.

The cost of the service during 1950 was £5,187, a reduction of £733 on last year.

New tips were started at Etchingham and Beckley. The nearness of the Etchingham tip to the village gave rise to many protests at first, but it is satisfactory to record that after it had been in use for a few weeks no further complaints were received. The tip is properly controlled and regularly treated by the rat-catchers.

Salvage

After an interval of 14 months with no waste paper collections the price began to rise until in October it reached £7 7s. 6d. per ton for mixed baled waste. It was felt that at this price the collection of waste paper could be resumed with some hope of profit, and the Council decided to engage a baler and begin collecting as soon as possible.

The unavoidable loss of revenue from this source during this year was much regretted.

The results of the year's collection are summarised below :

Material	*Tons*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lb.*	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ferrous metals ..	35	11	0	0	79	4	1
Non-ferrous metals ..	3	0	1	5	103	4	0
Bottles and jars	—	8	3	12	1	12	0
Rags	3	9	3	—	69	15	0
Rubber	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	42	9	3	17	£253	15	1

NEW DWELLINGS

New Dwellings

New dwellings erected :

(*a*) By the Council—		
Crowhurst	8	
Etchingham	7	
Pett	4	
Ticehurst	2	
Udimore	4	
Westfield	6	
	31	
(*b*) By private enterprise under licence ..	31	
(*c*) By private enterprise under subsidy ..	6	
Conversions to dwelling houses	9	
Houses in course of erection, 31st December, 1950 :		
(*a*) By the Council	56	
(*b*) By private enterprise	14	

HOUSE REQUISITIONING

The staff made 158 inspections in connection with requisitioning and 14 notices of requisition were posted, although only two properties were actually taken over.

Painting and maintenance repairs were carried out by contract where necessary during the summer.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Health became increasingly reluctant to delegate the powers of requisition ; this change of policy was regretted.

Many families had benefited, in addition the speculator was deterred from keeping houses empty for long periods in the hopes of obtaining higher prices, so helping in some measure to curb inflation in the property market.